PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tsutomu ABE et al.   Group Art Unit: 2625

Application No.: 09/717,155   Examiner: Y. Kassa

Filed: November 22, 2000   Docket No.: 107955

For: IMAGE READER

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 5, 2003 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Kassa in the December 30, 2003 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,995,245 to Moro. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Moro teaches "an image reader that detects the height distribution of the document prior to performing a pre-scanning" such that "a focal length adjustment is performed in response to the detected height distribution while the pre-scanning takes place" (Abstract). In Moro, "Book scanner 1 has three reading modes in which different numbers of scannings are performed. The first mode is appropriate for sheet documents. In the first mode, only one

scanning (main scanning) is performed. The second scanning mode is a mode in which one pre-scanning is performed before a main scanning. The third mode is a mode that is unique to the present invention, in which two pre-scannings are performed" (col. 5, lines 55-62). Moro, therefore, teaches a multi-step process which includes at least one pre-scanning step before a main scanning of any document other than sheet documents. Pre-scanning in the multi-scan modes of operation is performed to detect the curved condition of the document surface S1 (col. 6, lines 4-5) in order that, during subsequent scanning steps, "focus adjustment is performed in which image-forming lens 32 is moved in response to the result of the measurement of the curved condition of the document surface S1. Image output to an external device takes place during the main scanning" (col. 6, lines 18-23).

Claims 1-7 are directed to an apparatus, and claims 9-11 are directed to a method, wherein, among other features, imaging a plurality of targeted adjacent portions and measuring a plurality of distances to a plurality of points respectively set on the plurality of targeted adjacent portions occur during the same scan of an uneven surface of an image medium.

Applicants respectfully submit that because Moro discloses a multi-step scan process for separately collecting height distribution data and image data for the document presented, Moro neither teaches nor suggests the features of the invention recited in claims 1-7 and 9-11. In the personal interview, Examiner Kassa agreed to withdraw the rejection to independent claim 1 and to perform an updated search based on the above argument. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moro, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,146,275 to Tone et al. (hereinafter "Tone"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments traversing Moro as a reference suggesting the features of claims 8 and 12 are identical to the arguments traversing Moro as a reference disclosing the features of claims 1-7 and 9-11 set forth above.

Further, Tone discloses an analog or a digital image forming apparatus having a feature by which any optional mark can be remarkably simply transferred to a sheet of image transferring paper without replacing cards on which a mark is described (col. 1, lines 39-43). Tone teaches reading image data for the image of a document placed on a document table and separately reading image data for the image of a mark stored on an internal recording medium, and means for composing processing of the data of the mark images and the data of the document images for outputting composed image data including both the document image data and the mark image data (col. 3, lines 21-39).
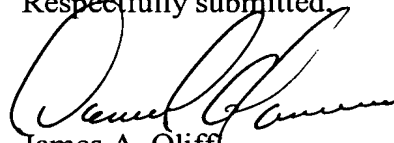
Applicants respectfully submit that Tone fails to disclose or suggest a processing unit for resizing the plurality of images in accordance with the different resolutions to obtain a plurality of resized images as is recited, among other features, in claims 8 and 12. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Moro does not disclose an image pickup unit, or a method, for imaging a plurality of multiple adjacent target positions at different resolutions from each other to obtain a plurality of multiple images each having different resolutions as recited, among other features, in claims 8 and 12.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Moro and Tone neither suggests, or provides motivation for, the invention as recited in claims 8 and 12. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:DAT/aaw

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